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Assembly California Legislature



PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

AGING & LONG-TERM CARE, CHAIR
BUDGET SUB #1,
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR
BUDGET
HEALTH
INSURANCE

April 14, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Redwood Region Audubon Society conservation easement Parcel 4

Dear Chairman Bosco, *[Signature]*

I am please to offer my support for Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) to accept the Offer to Dedicate (OTD) an open space easement over fifteen acres of land adjacent to Humboldt Bay, known as Parcel 4, made by the City of Eureka.

I believe that Redwood Region Audubon Society would be an appropriate organization to hold the conservation easement over Parcel 4, as it has long been active in efforts to protect and restore the natural environment, especially around Humboldt Bay. RRAS has also expressed interest in exploring the feasibility of future wetland restoration on the property in conjunction with the City.

Accepting the OTD would limit the use of Parcel 4 lands to "natural open space, habitat, and conservation purposes," thereby protecting the tidal marsh and other wetlands onsite, and resolving the uncertainty and controversy concerning future uses of the property. Parcel 4 provides habitat for many fish and wildlife species, as well as two rare plants, Point Reyes bird's beak and Humboldt Bay owl's clover.

I encourage the Conservancy to support this important project. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my Eureka District office at (707) 445-7014.

Respectfully,

[Signature: Patty Berg]

PATTY BERG
Assemblymember, 1st District

Cc: Davis Tyson, City Manager, City of Eureka



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Friday, April 11, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530



Re: Support for Authorization of RRAS to Accept OTD over Parcel 4

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) is a non-profit organization that actively works to protect the long-term health of the ecosystems of northern California. EPIC is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring biodiversity, native species, watersheds and ecosystems in our region, and has worked to protect Humboldt Bay in various efforts over the last decade.

As EPIC's Executive Director, I am writing to express our support to the Coastal Conservancy in authorizing Redwood Region Audubon Society to accept the City of Eureka's Offer to Dedicate an open space easement over fifteen acres of land adjacent to Humboldt Bay, known as Parcel 4. Acceptance of the offer by Redwood Region Audubon Society would limit the use of Parcel 4 lands to "natural open space, habitat, and conservation purposes," thereby protecting the tidal marsh and other wetlands onsite, and resolving the uncertainty and controversy concerning future uses of the property. Parcel 4 provides habitat for many fish and wildlife species, as well as two rare plants, Point Reyes bird's beak and Humboldt Bay owl's clover.

EPIC is confident that the Redwood Region Audubon Society is an appropriate organization to hold the conservation easement over Parcel 4, as it has long been active in efforts to protect and restore the natural environment, especially around Humboldt Bay. Redwood Region Audubon Society has also expressed interest in exploring the feasibility of future wetland restoration on the property in conjunction with the City.

We hope that the Conservancy will take this important step to protect Parcel 4 and resolve the controversy surrounding its future use.

Sincerely,

/s/
Scott Greacen
Executive Director



Sierra Club
North Group, Redwood Chapter

P.O. Box 238
Arcata, CA 95518

18 April 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for authorization of RRAS to accept OTD over Parcel 4

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The North Group, Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club has been deeply concerned for over 40 years with the health of the natural environment of the north coast, with its forestlands, streams, and Humboldt Bay. As Conservation Chair of the North Group, I should like to express our wholehearted support for authorization of Redwood Region Audubon Society to accept the Offer to Dedicate (OTD) an open-space easement over the 15 acres of land adjacent to Humboldt Bay known as Parcel 4.

The OTD would limit the use of Parcel 4 to "natural open space, habitat, and conservation purposes" and thus would protect a small part of Humboldt Bay—the tidal marsh and habitat for fish and wildlife and two rare plant species.

The City of Eureka accepted the OTD nearly 25 years ago but has been unable to do anything that finds much support in the community.

The Redwood Region Audubon Society has a long and solid reputation in Humboldt County for protecting and working to restore the natural environment and working with agencies to get a job done. The North Group, Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club thinks that it would be an excellent organization to hold the conservation easement over Parcel 4.

We urge the Coastal Conservancy to settle the dispute over Parcel 4 by choosing RRAS to hold the conservation easement.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Fairchild Beck, Conservation Chair
3657 Greenwood Heights Drive
Kneeland, CA 95549

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APR 25 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

JOEL GERWEIN



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Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Re: Support for Authorization of RRAS to Accept OTD on Parcel 4

Dear Mr. Bosco,

As Executive Director of the Northcoast Environmental Center, I am writing this letter to express support for the authorization of Redwood Region Audubon Society to accept the Offer to Dedicate an open space easement over fifteen acres of land adjacent to Humboldt Bay, known as Parcel 4, made by the City of Eureka. The NEC's mission is to promote understanding of the relations between people and the biosphere and to conserve, protect and celebrate terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems of northern California and southern Oregon.

Accepting the OTD would limit the use of Parcel 4 lands to "natural open space, habitat, and conservation purposes," thereby protecting the tidal marsh and other wetlands onsite, and resolving the uncertainty and controversy concerning future uses of the property. Parcel 4 provides habitat for many fish and wildlife species, as well as two rare plants, Point Reyes bird's beak and Humboldt Bay owl's clover.

The Northcoast Environmental Center believes that Redwood Region Audubon Society is an appropriate organization to hold the conservation easement over Parcel 4, as it has long been active in efforts to protect and restore the natural environment, especially around Humboldt Bay. RRAS has also expressed interest in exploring the feasibility of future wetland restoration on the property in conjunction with the City.

We hope that the Conservancy will take this important step to protect Parcel 4 and resolve the controversy surrounding its future use.

Sincerely,

Greg King
Executive Director

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APR 14 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

April 8, 2008

Mr Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland CA 94612

RE: Support for Authorization for Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) to Accept
an Offer to Dedicate (OTD) over Parcel 4 [Eureka, CA]

Dear Mr Bosco:

As a former board member and officer in RRAS, and a current officer in the North Group, Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club, I am writing this letter to express support for the authorization of RRAS to accept the OTD an open space easement over 15 acres of land adjacent to Humboldt Bay, known as Parcel 4, made by the City of Eureka.

Accepting the OTD would limit the use of Parcel 4 to "natural open space, habitat, and conservation purposes." Such action would protect the tidal marsh and other wetlands on the site and resolve the uncertainty concerning future uses of the property. Parcel 4 provides habitat for wildlife and fish. Two rare plants – Point Reyes bird's-beak (*Corydylanthus maritimum* ssp. *palustris*) and Humboldt Bay owl's-clover (*Castilleja ambigua* ssp. *humboldtiensis*) – also grow there.

I believe that RRAS is an appropriate organization to hold the conservation easement over Parcel 4, as it has been active for nearly four decades in activities to protect and restore the natural environment, especially around Humboldt Bay. In fact, RRAS was founded in 1969 during an effort to save the rookery on Eureka's Woodley Island.

I hope that the Conservancy will take this important step to protect Parcel 4 and resolve the controversy surrounding its future use.

Sincerely yours,



Sue Leskiw
5440 Cummings Rd
Eureka CA 95503

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APR 14 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Joel Gerwein
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

May 29, 2008

Dear Mr. Gerwein,

The Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) has applied to the California Coastal Conservancy to accept an open space easement from the City of Eureka for fifteen acres of coastal land adjacent to Humboldt Bay. The two parcels are known collectively as "Parcel 4". The dedication originated in a 1991 agreement between the Coastal Conservancy and the City wherein the City would dedicate Parcel 4 as open space if it failed to develop it within ten years.

The RRAS has worked with various organizations to route trails appropriately for wildlife observation and protection. RRAS will strive to assist the City in the appropriate open space development of Parcel 4 including trails, wildlife observation locations, removal of debris and wildlife habitat protection.

The Trails Trust of Humboldt Bay was formed in July 2004 for the purpose of both advocating and educating the community about potential projects for trail development and to raise necessary funds for the planning and permitting stages. Our goal is to partner with government, business and existing non-profits to get the trails started. Our desire is to help our community discover, learn about and enjoy the unique attributes of the region, particularly around Humboldt Bay and at the same time generate public support for these projects.

We wish to go on record in overwhelming support of the Redwood Region Audubon Society's efforts to acquire the easement for Parcel 4 in the interest of cleaning the site up and making it a wonderful place for both people and wildlife. This unique piece of waterfront property is a much neglected part of our bay and could be an asset rather than a dismal liability.

There are currently limited possibilities for people to easily access Humboldt Bay. The Trails Trust is continually looking for ways to help the public become more familiar with the bay, with the primary long-term goal of fostering bay stewardship. The RRAS easement Parcel 4 is an extraordinary opportunity to fulfill both the RRAS and The Trails Trust's goals.

Sincerely,

Mike Buettner
President, The Trails Trust of Humboldt Bay